January 16, 1967

REPORT NO. 1

TO: Jim Garrison

FROM: Alvin V. Oser

RE: Assignment of January 11, 1967
Location of Training Camp

Pursuant to your written special assignment on finding the location of the Cuban Training Camp located in the vicinity of Covington, Louisiana in 1963, I attempted to interview one CARLOS BRINGUIER, whose place of business is in the 100 block of Decatur Street. This is the individual who was involved in the street altercation with OSWALD in August, 1963. On Friday, January 13, 1967 I went to his business location on four occasions but was unable to contact BRINGUIER.

On Saturday, January 13, 1967 I was able to interview BRINGUIER in our office. BRINGUIER gave me the impression that he personally had never been to the camp across the lake. He stated that on various occasions he spoke to individuals who had been at this camp, including one RICARDO DAVIS who, BRINGUIER says, was the purchasing officer for the camp. DAVIS was also reported to be the one who arranged for the camp location. BRINGUIER states that he never knew the names of any of the individuals who had been at the camp. As you indicated earlier, this seems to be the standard tactic of these Cubans when the inquiry gets close to specifics.

During my conversation with BRINGUIER he told me that there were three things about the camp that he remembered being told:

(1) There was a swimming pool at the camp.

(2) That a road ran through the camp. On one occasion a car containing some people was approached by a number of trainees and was scared off.

(3) The location of the camp was almost exactly one hour's drive from Schwegmann's Store on Chef Menteur Highway. This was learned by BRINGUIER from DAVIS.

I obtained maps of the area of Slidell, Mandeville and Covington. I believed that a possible location for the camp may be Bayou Gardens, formerly owned by Governor Dick Leche.

On Sunday, January 15, 1967 I drove to Schwegmann's Store and left there approximately 9:00 a.m. I proceeded towards Slidell over the old route (U.S. 11). Fifty-eight minutes later I arrived at the entrance to Bayou Gardens. Bayou Gardens is now owned and operated by the Holy Redeemer Fathers for some sort of school.

During my stay at the location of Bayou Gardens I took a series of pictures which are attached to this report. These pictures were taken between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The pictures which I took have been put in numerical order and are descriptive of the following:

(1) View from side of road showing the intersection of U.S. 190 and Louisiana 434 to Bayou Gardens.

(2) View of turn of Louisiana 434 to Bayou Gardens. Note the road that curves to the left. This road is covered in pictures 3A and 3B.

(3A) Road that leads from the turn of Louisiana 434 and ends at a page gate which is posted with a sign reading "No Trespassing" Joseph J. Dugas. The road continues on past this gate, how far I was unable to ascertain. You will note that this is a paved road which gives the impression of having at one time been a traveled road.

(3B) Close-up view of gate blocking road.

(4) View of turn of Louisiana 434 with sign Bayou Gardens.

(5) Entrance gate to Bayou Gardens.

(6) Brick gateway on the grounds of Bayou Gardens.

NOTE: The remaining pictures are all of the inside of Bayou Gardens.

(7) View of terrain showing lagoon.

(8) View of terrain showing swampy area.

(9) View of one of the houses. Note gas pump in wooded area.

(10) Picture of swimming pool near what appeared to be main house or building.

(11) View of Bayou Lacombe running through property with a boathouse.

(12) Side view of pool and house.

There were no findings on this initial check to prove that this was the site of the camp other than the time location, the swimming pool and the road running through. In accordance with your instructions, I kept my investigation "loose" and did not probe into the area in detail and am awaiting further instructions on this.

It should be noted that there is an airstrip 6.7 miles from this location. Also there is some information that a cache of weapons found by the Federals in 1963 or 1964 was at Big Branch. This location is less than a mile from Bayou Gardens.

Aerial photographs of this area are indicated, especially of the location where the road is blocked to ascertain whether there is a swimming pool on that property.

ALVIN V. OSER